

Health Systems Agency and is also chairperson of the United Way of Hudson County.

Gail Thompson, who will receive the Girl Scout World of Today and Tomorrow award, is a registered architect who currently serves as vice-president of design and construction, for the New Jersey Performing Arts Center, Newark, NJ. Thompson, who holds a degree in architecture from the Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, NY and a master's degree in real estate and finance from Rutgers University, Newark, has also served as assistant vice-president of facilities planning and development at the American Stock Exchange.

In addition, Thompson is very involved with volunteer work. A commercial pilot and flight instructor, Thompson has been actively involved in exposing minority youth to aviation. She is the founder of a summer aviation camp for high school students.

The Corporate Award is being given to Matsushita Electric Corporation of America, located in Secaucus, NJ. Matsushita has consistently made generous contributions to the Girl Scouts, and their employees have been active volunteers in many Girl Scout programs.

I would like to congratulate all three of the recipients for their work with the Girl Scouts and wish them continued success in all of their endeavors.

CONGRATULATIONS TO PRACA FOR 45 YEARS OF LEADERSHIP IN THE PUERTO RICAN COMMUNITY

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 1998

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Puerto Rican Association for Community Affairs (PRACA) and congratulate this worthy organization on the occasion of the First Annual PRACA Awards. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating PRACA as they celebrate their forty-fifth year of leadership in New York City's Puerto Rican and Latino community on May 1st, 1998.

PRACA was founded in 1953 during the height of the Puerto Rican migration to New York City. At that time there were few organizations that helped newly-arrived Puerto Rican families adjust to the city's fast lifestyle, while helping them maintain their culture, values and traditions. PRACA was in the forefront of a movement, creating social service programs dedicated to the enrichment of the Puerto Rican community. In the years that followed, PRACA continued this work and extended the same services to other newly-arrived Latino families.

Today, PRACA's programs range from children and families services to adoption, education and housing programs. Over the years, they have been consistent in their mission while continuing to meet the diverse needs of the Puerto Rican and Latino community. PRACA has assisted families in understanding their new culture as well as preserving their history, language and cultural heritage. PRACA has helped reduce barriers, promote advancement and improved the lives of thousands of families in New York.

In closing, I ask you to join me in saluting PRACA for their vision, their leadership and

their perseverance these past 45 years. Congratulations!

TRIBUTE TO GORDON BINDER

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 1998

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Gordon Binder for his leadership of Amgen Corporation and his continued commitment to bringing science and technology into the community.

Calvin Coolidge once said, "Education is the result of contact. A great people is produced by contact with great minds." As CEO of one of America's leading genetic engineering firms, Gordon Binder and his corporation have dedicated themselves to fulfilling President Coolidge's call to educate the community. Gordon has not only continued to expand Amgen's research and development capabilities, but he has also initiated a number of innovative community outreach programs, bringing science to the community.

Some of these programs include the Amgen Staff Community Involvement Program (SCIP), in which the services of Amgen's talented staff are made available to non-profit organizations or to needy individuals for community improvement projects. In another program developed under Gordon's leadership, Amgen presents five \$10,000 Amgen Awards for Teacher Excellence each year. Amgen also provides evening science lectures for local high school students and administers a Mobile Laboratory Program that teaches students to perform real-life gene cloning experiments right in their own classrooms.

In addition to his work at Amgen, Gordon also serves on the Board of Directors of the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers Association, Pepperdine University, and Cal Tech. He also is Chairman of the Biotechnology Industry Organization and Past President of the American Cancer Society Foundation.

Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, please join me in paying tribute to Gordon Binder for his visionary leadership of Amgen Corporation and his efforts, in our community and across the country, to make innovations in science and technology available to thousands of high school students.

HAPPY 115TH ANNIVERSARY, SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 1998

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, the ability to endure provides a sense of power to any entity, and it instills confidence in those who belong to an organization. Nothing is more reassuring than the endurance of religious faith as evidenced by the long history of one's church. The congregation of Second Baptist Church in Bay City Michigan, is proud of its Church, which will be celebrating its 115th anniversary this weekend.

The history of Second Baptist Church is an inspirational story of accomplishment. For the

first twenty-five years after its organization in 1883, Second Baptist depended upon its faithful worshipers for sustenance, until a major building project was completed in 1907 under the pastorate of Rev. Henry Brown. This site saw the growth of the church over its first ninety-six years, until the cornerstone for the current church at Youngs Ditch and Scheurmann Roads was laid by then-pastor Rev. Marvin A. Jennings, Sr.

The mortgage on this property was paid in full last year, culminating the project that was started by Reverend W.L. Daniel, who was the pastor in 1964.

Pastor Seth Doyle has led the church since May 11, 1986. He has overseen the establishment of a day care center, a ministry mission to Zimbabwe, and the on-going spiritual growth of the Bay City community. Pastor Doyle wants Second Baptist Church to be a vital, vibrant beacon in the community, which it has been, and most assuredly will continue to be.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and all of our colleagues to join me in wishing Pastor Doyle and the entire congregation of Second Baptist Church a most joyous and blessed 115th anniversary. We join them in their prayer to continue to look to God for strength, guidance, and direction.

CUDAHY HIGH SCHOOL BAND, STILL MARCHING STRONG AFTER 75 YEARS

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 1998

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to the past and present members of the Cudahy, Wisconsin High School Band who will mark the band's 75th anniversary with a series of events and concerts the weekend of May 16 and 17, 1998.

One of the four oldest bands in the greater Milwaukee area, the Cudahy High School's 75th Anniversary Gala will truly be a special event. Former conductors, alumni, distinguished guests and dignitaries will be on hand for the festivities and, in some cases, will even join the current musicians!

All of the members of the Cudahy High School Bands, which now include the Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, Concert Band, Marching Band, Jazz Ensemble, and Pep Band, are to be commended for their many accomplishments over the years. The Marching Band has been named the State Champion in its class in 1989, 1990, 1996 and 1997. The band has qualified many members for the State Honors Band, State Honors Orchestra and State Honors Jazz Ensemble since beginning Honors participation in 1977. Members of the band have an outstanding solo and ensemble record at both State and District level competitions.

With all of this in mind, Mr. Speaker, I truly look forward to joining the Cudahy High School Bands at their 75th Anniversary Gala in May. I know that all Cudahy's residents will mark that weekend to say a heartfelt "thank you" to the band members and directors for all of their entertainment in parades, concerts and athletic events over the years.